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TURKISH TALES:

IN TWO VOLUMES.

By JOSEPH MOSER.

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THE EDITORIAL

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PREFACE

It has frequently been urged as a recommendation to medicalists, especially those composed of them, that if they do no good, it is impossible that they can do any harm. On the one hand, the following Table is offered to the Public.

The critical Reader will perceive that they are (like the medicines alluded to) composed of simples, and that he may join the fabricator in opinion, that they will be of little use, except they operate as narcotics. It is hoped

P R E F A C E.

IT has frequently been urged as a recommendation to medicines, especially those composed of simples) that if they do no good, it is impossible that they can do any harm. On the same ground, the following Tales are offered to the Public.

The critical Reader will perceive that they are (like the medicines alluded to) composed of simples; and tho' he may join the fabricator in opinion, that they will be of little use, (except they operate as narcotics) it is hoped

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he will have the candour to allow they are as little likely to do any harm.

To continue the analogy between medical and literary prescriptions, it is to be observed, that the packet (to which this is designed as a label) is divided into five doses, small at first, but gradually increasing, as the strength of the reader (who if he goes thro' the whole course, may, not unaptly, be termed the patient) is able to bear them.

Success is said to be the parent of vanity: perhaps the truth of that aphorism is exemplified in the

the following pages ; the author of which freely confesses, that the favour with which his other writings have been received, was his inducement to sail to Turkey, divested of the freight and ballast that usually accompanies the voyage ; and launch his vessel, without invoking the aid of giants, dwarfs, fiends, genii, elves, dæmons, or other supernatural agents, to conduct her to the desired port.

If, therefore, the Turkish Tales appear cold, after the glowing and animated descriptions which adorn the Eastern novelists ; if they pall upon palates, used to, and perhaps vitiated by stronger compositions,

positions, they have nothing to offer in their own defence; nor will their afflicted parent be able to say a word in their behalf, except it is to request the Public to consider them as infants, whose whims and frolics may amuse an hour; and judge (that however imbecile their present attempts to attract attention may seem) when their genius expands with their maturity, they may range through the wilds of fancy, traverse earth, sea and air, deliver kingdoms, rescue princesses, and perform all the exploits for which their ingenious cotemporaries have so long and justly been admired.

SELIM

TURKISH TALES.

See Thomas Southerne's

The Loyal Brother; or, The Persian Prince

SELIM AND ALMERIA.

WHEN the victorious army of Solyman the Second returned from the siege of Belgrade, that prince (who on his way diverted himself with hunting) pursuing the chace one morning earlier than usual, found, wrapped up in

VOL. I. B swaddling

fwaddling cloaths, and laying upon a plough-share, a beautiful infant, who, abandoned by its mother (had not the sultan interfered) was on the point of being devoured by the dogs.—While he gazed with pleasure upon the features of the child, something very like an execration escaped him against the inhumanity of the parent; and in that moment the angel of compassion whispered to his soul—“Solyman, become a father to the orphan thus thrown into thy protecting arms!” The admonition of the angel was not in vain; he embraced his charge, who extended its little hands, and smiled,

as

as its face was pressed against that of the monarch.

When they returned to Constantinople, so much had his fondness increased, that he ordered a nursery to be fitted up, and the same attention to be paid to the stranger as if he had been the son of his favorite sultana.

As years rolled on, the love of Solyman seemed to grow with the growth of Selim, (which was the name that he gave him;) and the youth returned the attachment of the sultan, by the profoundest respect to his person, and attention

to his précepts. His good qualities and his genius hourly expanded, as he approached towards manhood. The assiduity of his tutors could scarcely keep pace with his passion for learning; and that part of the city, to which he had permission to resort, was too confined a sphere for the activity of his benevolencé.

The virtues and accomplishments of Selim, and the pleasure with which Solyman dwelt upon the praises of his young favorite, became a topic of conversation far beyond the limits of the court.— Within that circle it excited
the

the admiration of all, and the envy of a few.—Among those, the grand vizier, Mustapha, had long, with a scrutinizing and malignant eye, marked the ripening virtues of the youth, and the progress that he daily made in the affections of the sultan.—Long had he spread his web, with the caution of a spider, to entangle the unwary Selim; who artless, simple, and above disguise, had placed the firmest confidence in his insidious caresses, and unboomed himself to him without reserve.

At this time the war broke out between the Turks and Venetians,

and, as the inclination and education of Selim had been a preparation for a naval command, the Sultan (though with reluctance) determined that his favorite should enter upon a scene of active life; he therefore entrusted to him a ship of force, in which situation his bravery and good fortune soon became conspicuous; having encountered two of the enemy's vessels, sailing to the relief of Famagusta, and, after an obstinate engagement, brought them into the Turkish port, he returned, crowned with laurels, to Constantinople.

The

The sultan, exulting in the victory of Selim, in the presence of Mustapha, declared the young hero, Bassa of the seas, and commander in chief of the Ottoman fleet.—The vizier, thrown off his guard, by the merit and success of the youth, and the declaration of Solyman, after praising the valor of the former, and the munificence of the latter, in so amply rewarding it, observed, that the god of love seemed to be as propitious to the hero as the god of war.—The sultan started at this intimation, but said he was glad an arrow had reached the heart of Selim, as he had been surprised at

the coolness of his behaviour to the fair sex, and could by no means reconcile it with the ardor of his temper, in the exercise of arms, the pursuit of learning, or the practice of benevolence.—

“The beauties of the seraglio,” continued the sultan—“Pardon the interruption of your slave,” replied Mustapha, “the purchased beauties have indeed no charms for Selim; an eagle of ambition, he soars far above them; this son of chance, this child, who, exposed upon a plough-share, owes his existence to the humanity of Solyman, has no eyes for inferior beauties; his daring soul mounts aloft

aloft to the Ottoman throne—to the daughter of Mahomet.—”

“ On your life I charge you hold !” cried the Sultan; “ for fure you cannot—dare not fay, that Selim loves—aspires to Almeria !” “ Your command checks your flave, or I fhould have faid that, nay even more !” “ More ! then it is neceffary I fhould know it, and permit you to fpeak ; fay on ; but I warn you to remember, that the leaft deviation from truth may be fatal to you.”

“ Thus adjured,” faid the vif-
zier, “ I fpeak to you as juft as
if

if you was the messenger of our prophet, sent to search my heart. That Selim, giddy with ambition, intoxicated with applause and honours, aspires to Almeria, is certain; but how shall I dare tell my sovereign, that his niece, the imperial Almeria, loves, dotes upon the vagrant Selim; yet it is equally certain! The illness of the princess during his absence; her exultation at his victories; her joy at his return.—My daughter, her attendants, the eunuchs, all concur in painting the passion of your niece; the ingratitude of the youth.—Their secret meetings are known, their epistolary correspondence

respondence discovered; and as I stake my life upon the truth of my assertions, I hope your sublime highness will reward the traitor, Selim, according to his deserts."

"I shall endeavour to do it," said the sultan, coolly; "but as I think my niece, Almeria, deserves equal punishment, order them both into my presence."

The vizier flew to execute his commission. — The agitation of the lovers can scarcely be conceived, when they entered the closet of the monarch. — The heart of Mustapha beat with joy, when
Solyman,

Solyman, looking upon the youth, for the first time, with a stern countenance, thus addressed him :

“ Ingratitude, tho’ the growth of every foil, I had vainly hoped was a vice from which the heart of Selim was exempt.—It would be ungenerous, in your present situation, to remind you of my fondness, or the favors I have, and the honours I intended to heap upon you ; there was nothing, excepting my niece, that in my empire you might not have commanded ; but while I was admiring the openness and candour of your disposition, to endeavour to gain
the

the affection of Almeria, by fraud and treachery—”

“ Oh, heavens!” said Selim, with emotion; “ can my protector, my benefactor, my more than father, accuse of treachery a wretch, who never had a thought which he concealed, but that which the present hour has discovered! Could I, till thus urged, avow my passion for Almeria! or say, that bred up in the seraglio, struck with the infant and growing beauties of the princess, I adored her! Though at first I only knew I loved by the reluctance with which I received the homage of
all

all other women. When I made the discovery I flew to the command you appointed me. I combated with my passion; I avoided as much as possible the seraglio; I determined to banish myself from Constantinople.—”

“And pray,” said the sultan, “what hindered you from putting your design in execution, and endeavouring to conquer your passion by absence?”

“I hindered him,” said Almeria.—“If there is any treachery in the conduct of Selim it is to be imputed to me.—There are
his

his letters, and there are mine; your highness will from them, in an instant, developé the progress of our loves. — You will see, that through the whole I have been the tempter, and Selim the monitor.—You will wreak your whole vengeance upon your niece, for her sensibility to courage and virtues, which you have cultivated into the resemblance of your own. You will make me the sacrifice; but spare, on my knees I entreat you, spare the brave, the generous, the grateful, the noble-minded, Selim!”

While the Sultan read the correspondence, the sentiments of the vizier

vizier and the lovers may be better conceived than expressed; they watched the countenance of the monarch, and followed the changes of it with different emotions. When he had gone through the whole, he ordered the culprits to approach, and thus addressed them:

“ Selim and Almeria, after an impartial perusal of your letters, and a serious consideration of your crimes, I am inclined to think you both deserve death.—The ingratitude of the one, the passions and inticements of the other, should be held forth as a public example; but as I also think some
part

part of the blame rests with me, for having broke through my country's customs, and suffered two beautiful young persons, of different sexes, to be, in some degree, educated together, but as I have formerly had the strongest attachment to both, I decree, that the execution of the fatal sentence I have just pronounced shall be respited, till nature, age, and an accumulation of misdeeds, like the present, shall call down the vengeance of Alla, and extend the arm of our prophet to fulfil it.—in the mean time, as your guilt has been mutual, mutual be your punishment; and that you may,

in each others arms, prepare to meet the final sentence, which tho' I hope distant, is nevertheless certain, I order, that the nuptial rites be immediately celebrated; that Selim assumes the office of grand vizier; that Almeria accepts from me the marble palace, to remain as a monument of her unworthy passion.—And that the meddling Mustapha, with the whole train of spies and tale-bearers of the seraglio, be sent to the seven-towers till the humanity of Selim signs their release.

PRINCE

PRINCE KESTERMAN AND
FELICIA.

DURING the war between the Turks and Polanders, Kesterman, a prince, had been taken by a detachment from the army of the grand seignior, and had been long confined in the prison of the seven towers, at Constantinople. The general of the Poles, wishing to re-

lieve him from captivity, after treaty had proved ineffectual, cast his eye upon one De Maret; knowing that he had fled from France, for having killed his adversary in a duel, that he was a daring fellow, and an excellent engineer; he, therefore, made a proposal to him, to go and use all his courage and address, in order to obtain the liberty of the prince. De Maret accepted the employment with avidity, and soon after arrived at Constantinople; where, in viewing the fortifications of the seven towers, he was observed by the Turks, and taken prisoner; and a sketch of the place being found
upon

upon him, he was accused of being a spy, and would undoubtedly have been condemned, but for the interference of the Frenchambassador.

Gold, though powerful in most nations, is omnipotent in Turkey. A bribe, properly applied, procured the Frenchman his liberty; but without his being able to do any thing effectual in favour of the prince, who was destined to have other assistance towards his emancipation.

The captain of the seven towers had a daughter, lovely as fancy
c 3 could

could paint in a youthful mind, the goddess of its adorations.— She had, from infancy, been nearly as closely immured as the prince; she, therefore, knew how to pity his captivity. One of her chambers looked into the same court as that did in which the prince was confined; and though her lattices were bar'd, she had, by the means of an eunuch that attended her, found means to open them, that she might the better view him.

From the little she could discern, as he stood at the grate, she was struck with the elegance of

his form. Her admiration soon produced a tender passion.—She resolved to procure his liberty, and her own at the same time.

When a lady takes a resolution in favour of a lover, she is generally indefatigable in finding the means to accomplish it. She had access to a large garden, and tho' the slave that had the care of it was deaf and dumb, she found a method, by signs, to engage him in her interest. Through his means a door was unbar'd that opened into the court, and taking the opportunity of her father's absence, one morning, when the

prisoner came to the grate, to inhale the breeze, and catch the glimpse of the rising sun, as it struck upon the battlements, she stood before him.

Astonished at the appearance of a beautiful female, in a place where he had never before seen a human creature, he demanded the cause: "To give liberty to the noble prisoner," she replied; "to restore him to his family, friends, connexions—perhaps," continued she, blushing, "to some happy female, who now laments his captivity, is the object which has for some time employed the thoughts of Felicia."

The

The surprise of Kesterman increased, when she informed him who she was, and the means that she had taken to endeavour to procure his enlargement. They had a long conversation, and what was at first gratitude in the Polisher, her lovely form, and captivating manners, ripened into a softer passion.

One interview succeeded another; by means of the slave she procured the prince access to the garden, the walls of which they carefully surveyed, and found that a part of them might be ascended by a ladder; but the difficulty of
procuring

procuring such an instrument damped the hopes of the lovers, and the return of her father for a while suspended their operations. They were now debar'd from any communication with each other, except at stolen intervals, from their grated windows, where they indulged themselves in all the tenderness that could be expressed by signs.

While Kesterman and Felicia languished for an opportunity to escape, the indefatigable DeMaret, having undertaken the cause of the prince, resolved, notwithstanding the discovery, which had like
to

to have involved him in such disagreeable consequences, not to give it up; he returned to Constantinople in disguise, and, tho' his late escape had not damped his ardour, it rendered him more circumspect. Again he surveyed the walls of the garden, and pitched upon the very place, as assailable without, which the lovers had contemplated within.

Upon representing the sufferings of the prince to the French ambassador, he had the address to gain him over to their party, and under pretence of sending the prisoner a cover daily from his table,

it

it was so contrived, that it should frequently be paltry, under the crust of which were conveyed plans of gardens, &c. remarks upon the place 'from whence he might escape, and instructions respecting the signal he should make, and the times when De Maret would attend on the spot with rope ladders, and every thing necessary.

However pleasing this information was to the prince, it was out of his power either to avail himself of the services of his friends, or communicate the intelligence to the lady. — When he caught

caught a view of her from his grate, he held up papers, and made signs, but he found by those she returned, that it was impossible at present to have any nearer interview. He tried to tamper with the slaves that attended him at stated times; but found their fidelity, or their fears, were so great, that he hazarded a discovery if he proceeded further.

To patience he was compelled to have recourse.—The covers came no more from the ambassador, consequently the correspondence between him and De Maré ceased. His passion increased

creased every hour, and a prey to love and disappointment, several weeks had languished away, when one morning, upon opening his shutter, the lovely Felicia stood before him; "Joy to Kesterman," she said, with animation; "my father has been ordered to attend the vizier, at the camp; the slaves are, several of them, at my devotion; and if you wish to escape, the hour seems propitious—— Liberty!"

"And love, I hope, await the happy Kesterman," he replied, "or the prison, under whose roof Felicia resides, shall continue my abode,

abode, in preference to the palaces of my friends, or my paternal castle."

"After having gone thus far," said Felicia, "it would be folly and affectation to deny, that I mean, with your approbation, to be the companion of your flight. But though my conduct in this instance may betray a want of duty, in abandoning my father, friends, and country; yet acting under the influence of a superior passion, which arose at first from pity for your misfortunes; I can, without reluctance, part with every thing, except my virtue and honour;

honour; those as twined round my existence must be preserved; those," she continued, giving him her hand; "with this pledge I place in your guardianship; be to them a protector, and I hope, from the generosity of Kesterman, I shall have no reason to repent my confidence."

"Never," he replied, "will I relinquish this precious pledge, or forget the solemnity with which it was delivered.—Bound by the double ties of honour and gratitude, till my title is confirmed by an irrevocable vow at the altar, I am the brother of Felicia; or if there
is

is a respect and attention superior to the fraternal, be it marked in the conduct of Kesterman."

During this conversation the lovers arrived at the wall; the signal was given, but unanswered from without. Their spirits sunk from the height of exultation to a state of despondency.—All the day they continued in the garden; the dumb slave brought them refreshments into one of the arbours. Toward evening they returned to the wall; the signal was made—answered—and immediately a ladder of ropes was thrown over, and De Maret appeared upon the

top; his surprise was great, when, instead of Kesterman, he beheld a lady ascending; with his assistance she got safely up, and was received on the other side by his friends.—This was no time for further explanation; the prince followed, and under favor of the night, they were fortunate enough to make their escape.—Horses were in waiting; they flew like lightning; and in a short time passed the frontiers, and arrived in Poland.

Being now in a place of safety, the first concern of Kesterman was, to renew his vows to Felicia, who, every hour more charmed

with his behaviour, looked forward with pleasure to the happy time that was to unite them; but fearful of the consequences of her flight, and the escape of the prince, by her means, to her father, she determined to remain in their present situation till they heard from Constatinople.

To relieve her anxiety, Kesterman procured a large sum of money, and the intrepid De Maret offered to return to Turkey, and watch the fate of Mahomet, the parent of Felicia.

When the vizier heard of the liberation of the prisoner, though

he was not acquainted by what means, in the first emotions of his rage, he ordered the bassa of the seven towers to be confined in the dungeon.

De Maret arrived in the disguise of a greek merchant; he applied again to the French ambassador, who, it appears, perfectly understood the temper of the vizier; by his means, assisted by the gold of Kesterman, that officer was made sensible of the innocence of Mahomet; who, after suffering a short imprisonment, was liberated with a slight reprimand, and in a little time restored to his office.

The

The return of De Maret with this intelligence compleated the felicity of the lovers; his courage and fidelity were amply rewarded by Keferman, who, with his lovely fugitive, travelled on to Warsaw. She was introduced to his family, and the principal nobility; and her amiable manners were as much admired as her elegant form.

Some time after her arriyal she renounced the mahometan religion in the great church; the king, who was present, was so affected with the solemnity and propriety of her behaviour, upon that oc-

caſion, and ſo pleaſed with her ſtory, that he reſolved to act as her father on the approaching nuptials; and the next day, when ſhe was introduced to him, ſaid, “ I receive the good and lovely Felicia as my daughter, and am happy in making an acquiſition that does ſo much honour to my family.”

The marriage was celebrated with a magnificence ſuitable to the rank of the parties; who, after living ſome months in all the gaiety and ſplendor of the court of Warſaw, retired to a caſtle, at a conſiderable diſtance from the capital.

capital. In a situation equally romantic and delightful, remote from the bustle of the world, tho' not totally neglecting the busy haunts of men, the prince Kesterman and princess Felicia lived long an example of domestic happiness, and conjugal felicity.— Idolized by their neighbours, tenants and dependants, revered by their country, and beloved by a numerous and beautiful family, in whose descendants the honour and courage of their paternal, and the virtues of their maternal ancestors, are transmitted to the present generation.

Advertisement.

The Hint, and merely the Hint, upon which the following little Tale is erected, may be found in Tavernier's Oriental Travels, Page the 111th; or the Third Volume of the Turkish Spy, Page the 166th.

NOURMAHALL.**QUEEN OF THE INDIES.**

PART I.

IT is recorded, that the great mogul, Gehan-guir, was so passionate an admirer of beautiful women, that he employed the greatest assiduity to render himself agreeable to them, and bestowed the most liberal rewards upon those who made it their business

business to procure them. With such propensities and generosity, it is little to be wondered, that the harem of that monarch was filled with beauties from all parts of the eastern, and some of the western, world.

When he had spent some years in the desultory gallantry, and effeminate pleasures of the seraglio; when he was nearly satiated with the uninteresting luxuries around him, and his ideas roved abroad; while he sighed for still greater variety, the god of love, who grieved at the despondence of so faithful a subject, contrived to re-
vive

vive his passion by the following circumstance :

As he was one day sitting in his council-chamber, the officer that attended at the great door, entered and informed him, that two ladies waited in the anti-chamber, having a petition to deliver, which they wished to present to the sultan in person.

Astonished at the singularity of the request, as coming from females, he, after pausing a few moments, ordered them to be admitted.

The

The first that entered appeared of a middle age; she advanced to the foot of the throne, and presenting a paper—"Receive," said she, "illustrious Gehan-guir, sublime lord of the universe, the petition of the distressed wife and daughter of Ibrihim, the Persian captain, who has fallen under your displeasure, for the part he took in the rebellion of Merordac, your son, and who now languishes in prison, hourly expecting that death—" "Which is due to his perfidy and ingratitude," said the sultan," while fire flash'd from his eyes; "such a monster of treason has lived too long," he continued,

tinued, rising in a rage; “and shall instantly meet his fate.”——

He stepped from the throne, and was calling to the officer to order immediate execution, when the final decree died upon his tongue, and his whole faculties were absorbed in admiration of the beauty of the younger lady, who had thrown aside her vail, and now knelt before him.

“Mercy! mercy!” she cried, in a voice that found its way to the heart of the sultan.—“The daughter of the unhappy, of the guilty, Ibrihim, intreats you to extend
your

your mercy, and spare the life of her father."

While she spoke this, in the most impassioned accents, the tears fell from her lovely eyes upon her bosom, which a slight gauze covering but half concealed, and which throbbed with such emotion, while her whole frame seemed so disordered with grief, that the monarch, attacked on the side where he was most assailable, raised her up, and folding her in his arms, said, "Let Ibrahim go free, be you his lovely surety; from this instant the Persian may range at large, his crimes are forgiven;

forgiven; but as his daughter is the cause of my revocation of a solemn decree, I am determined to retain her prisoner."

He gave immediate orders for the liberation of the captain, and while his wife went to meet and congratulate him upon his release, his daughter was, by the sultan, conducted into the seraglio, where she had magnificent apartments assigned her; and in a short time her father was promoted to the rank of general in the army of Indostan.

Though

Though the daughter of Ibrihim at this period was scarcely sixteen, she was a young lady of a sublime and elevated genius; perhaps it was foreseen by her parents, that her beauty would one day place her in her present situation, therefore no pains had been spared to qualify her to adorn it; and as she perceived the monarch was not merely struck, but that he adored, he idolized her charms, she used every means to increase his passion.—For this purpose she studied his temper with great attention, and finding that he delighted in shews and festivities, she applied to all the artists which the luxurious

rious city of Delhi afforded; invited from all parts of the empire those who had talents to execute the magnificent plans which she invented, who could increase the splendour of the ball, or add to the mirth and conviviality of the banquet.

The vast hall of the seraglio was decorated with the greatest magnificence, and became a splendid theatre; here the comedy, the masquerade, and dance, succeeded each other; and on this brilliant stage the daughter of Ibrihim shone as the principal character.— In the other apartments, her ex-

alted genius equally displayed itself; the painter, sculptor, and architect, vied with each other, and Gehan-guir beheld, with surprise, a new creation rising around him. While the eyes of the monarch turned upon these objects with admiration, his taste was not neglected; under her influence the delights and festivities of the table were increased, and in whatever she undertook, she discovered new attractions. The elegance of her manners, and the entertainment of her conversation, had, by this time, gained such an ascendant over the heart of the sultan, that he publicly married her;

her; giving her, at the same time, the name of Nourmahall, which signifies the light of the seraglio.

Being now advanced to within one step of the top of fortune's ladder; enjoying all the pleasures and delights which her elevated situation afforded; idolized by her husband, worshipped by the minions around, and applauded by the Indian nation, who could suppose that in the heart of the lovely Nourmahall one wish remained ungratified? But so equal is the distribution of Providence, with respect to good and evil, joy and sorrow, that we find the

power and opulence annexed to a throne, are incapable of shielding the bosom from the secret pang; that the bed of state is not more likely to promote repose than the bed of straw; or that the imperial domes of the palace are no better shelter from the storms of fortune than the lowly roof of the cottage.

This was exemplified in Nourmahall, from whose lovely bosom the rising sigh was frequently wafted to heaven, amidst all the splendour and luxury with which she was surrounded.

“What

“What a glorious fate! what a delightful situation would mine be,” she would often say, “could I but render it permanent! could I but secure to myself the continuance of power after the decline of beauty! as beauty,” she sighed again, “we all know will decline, I should be compleatly happy!— But while I am looking forward to an event which cannot happen for many, many years,” she continued, turning to her mirror with a smile, “I forget that my present happiness is suspended by a hair, a breath may destroy it, the event of a moment, accident, inebriety, or fatigue, may cut the thread of

the sultan's existence, and by the sons of Gehan-guir, who can now scarcely conceal their hatred, I may, in an instant, be hurl'd from this elevated situation, and fall to one much lower than that from which I rose."

The terror arising from thoughts like these, daily and nightly haunted the queen: and in fears for events that might be impending, the passing hour (though she assumed the semblance of gaiety and mirth) afforded her but little enjoyment.

Gehan

Gehan-guir had two sons.— With the young princes he had formerly lived upon affectionate terms. The eldest had lately rebelled against his father, who, at the time he condemned Ibrihim, the Persian captain, to death, punished him by a deprivation of sight. The youngest, Kouram, lived at a distance from the capital, in a large province that had been bestowed upon him; and which rendered him in some degree independent of his father.

The queen looked upon the situation of this young man with extreme jealousy, his elevation to

the Indian throne, by the death of her husband, was a circumstance that hourly presented itself to her imagination. She saw herself degraded, kneeling to the haughty prince, who turned from her with disgust; insulted, imprisoned.

To ward off this imaginary evil she redoubled her efforts to engage the heart, and triumph over the mind of the sultan; and her fertile genius varied his amusements every day. On one, the pleasures of the chase were to be pursued; the deer were driven into a vast inclosure, a shining troop of courtiers were collected, at the head
of

of whom, mounted upon a most beautiful white Arabian courser, Nourmahall appeared. Her attire was of a vivid green persian silk, fastened under the bosom, and at the wrists, with diamond clasps; her head was adorned with a diadem of precious stones, surmounted by a brilliant crescent, from which sprung a plume of white ostrich feathers, that were finely contrasted with a redundance of beautiful black tresses, some of which were braided with strings of pearl, while others fell loose upon her shoulders; from the back of her head hung a vail of white muslin, chequered, with gold,

gold, which, floating in the air, half concealed a brilliant quiver, that hung from her shoulder.— Over her steed, who seemed equally proud of his magnificent trappings, and of his lovely burden, hung a silver net, his bit was of gold, and his bridle and stirrups set with rubies. When she galloped over the plain, Gehan-guir was enchanted to behold the ease with which she managed her courser; and in her agility and dress he discovered new attractions.

In the evening, when she led the jocund band that formed the ballet, she moved over the stage
with

with the ærial grace and lightness of a sylph; in an under dress of pink satin, fitted to her shape, over which a loose drapery of silver gauze discovered her elegant form, as the zephyrs, which the motions of the dance excited, developed the folds. The tiara had given place to a wreath of flowers round her head; her hair was tied with bows of white and silver ribbands; the only jewel she wore was the diamond crescent, over which the plumes of the peacock waved in luxuriant gaiety.

Other days were dedicated to aquatic amusements. A superb vessel

vessel was launched upon the immense lake in the garden; beautiful children were attired as Cupids, who hung upon the shrouds, and while her attendants took the dress of water nymphs, she assumed the character of Cleopatra; smaller boats attended, from which a concert of vocal and instrumental music floated in the breeze, and stole upon the sky.—Exhibitions of the most magnificent fire-works, the banquet and masque, concluded the day.

When the weather did not permit the pleasures of the fields and gardens, the literati were assembled
in.

in the saloon; prizes were given for the composition and recitation of poetry, and other works of genius. After different specimens had been applauded, the queen produced hers; they were found superior to the others, and the prize adjudged to her; she received the honour, but presented the reward to those whose pieces were next in merit.

Amidst such a variety of amusements, the attention of Gehanguir was continually attracted to Nourmahall, he lived but in her sight, and his spirits kept perpetually afloat; in the pursuit or enjoy-

enjoyment of some object of dissipation, he left the government of his extensive dominions, in a great measure to the queen; but that would not satisfy the ambitious, the towering genius of Nourmahall; she sighed for more extensive power, and the pleasures of despotic sway had made so strong an impression upon her mind, that she resolved to urge the sultan to relinquish his throne to her, if it was but for a few hours.

The disaffection of his son, Kouram, gave her a pretence to carry part of her plan into execution; and as he had fled, and joined

ed some rebellious rajas, and by their means the capital was kept in continual alarm; it induced the effeminate monarch to retire to one of his palaces, where he was more out of the reach of danger.

This was exactly what Nourmahall (who never lost sight of the dazzling object, which absolute power presented to her mind) wished.—Here the pleasures and luxuries, which had reigned in the capital were renewed; and as Gehan-guir daily grew fonder of the delights of the table, the most
sump-

sumptuous entertainments were prepared.

It was at one of these festivals, when the monarch had freely indulged, and she had enchanted him by her execution on the lute, accompanied by her voice, and farther to inflame his passions, danced before him, that the sultan, who was in the height of good humour, desired her to sit by him; at the same time declaring, that he loved her far beyond any of the numerous beauties of the seraglio; that although he was at first fascinated with her charms, his chains had been rivetted by her

her exalted genius, and cultivated mind; therefore he was resolved to grant her any favour she should ask.

Nourmahall, seeing the sultan so highly enamoured of her, thought this a favourable opportunity to urge her request; with trembling and hesitation she began:

“ If it is true, O Gehan-guir ! and from my own feelings I have great reason to believe it, that the idol of the female heart is power, and I am permitted to ask a favor that would please me best; you

will, perhaps, conceive for what I should petition ; you will, perhaps, anticipate the wish of Nourmahall ; if you do not, how shall I speak it, unless encouraged by you ?” The monarch waved his hand, and she proceeded.—“ Tho’ born in a situation comparatively low to that which I now enjoy, my expanded mind, my elevated soul, has always looked up with some degree of envy to the eastern thrones, from which the monarchs, second only to Omnipotence, issue their immutable decrees, and rule with despotic sway. Often, in my juvenile years, have I said, how happy must those mortals be
whose

whose words are as fixed as fate!
and as by your favour I have been
brought nearer to the throne, the
ardour of my desires to possess absolute power has increased.—
Could I but reign uncontrolled,
I have often said, though but for
a short space, I should be completely blest.—Therefore, O sultan! let your faithful Nourmahall become a despotic monarch for the space of twenty-four hours; let her taste the sweets of unlimited power, and in that shall every wish of her heart be gratified.”

Surprise at her request banished mirth from the countenance

of the monarch; who not chusing peremptorily to refuse, endeavoured to evade her entreaty, by saying, that in a matter of such immense consequence, whatever disposition he might have to indulge her, it would be necessary to give the subject a few days consideration.

During the former part of this period, the voluptuous and effeminate Gehan-guir was absorbed in melancholy, of which the artful Nourmahall took no notice, but continued her amusements and entertainments; surrounding him with every object, which her fertile

tile invention judged likely to captivate his senses.

Four days the monarch revolved within his own mind the importance of the request; but on the fifth (no longer able to hold out against her allurements) he said, "You have conquered, O Nourmahall! I will retire for twenty-four hours from the throne, and during that time absolute power shall be yours."

Notice was accordingly sent to all the provinces, and when they were apprized of the event, the sultan summoning the grandees,

and all the different states of the empire, presented the queen to them, and leading her to the throne; when she was seated, he stood upon the steps of it, and said :

Princes, khans,* rajas, potentates, and powers, behold your monarch, whom I command you to obey. The orders you receive from her I expect you to execute with the same diligence, affection, and reverence, as if you had them from myself."

He then made a profound obeisance to the queen, and retired, amidst

* Or kans.

amidst the shouts and acclamations of the people, who rent the air with cries of "Long live Nourmahall!" while the cannon resounded from the battlements, and reverberated through the lofty domes of the seraglio.

The beautiful sultana having thus attained the height of her wishes, was resolved to perpetuate the remembrance of it.

While this event was in contemplation in her own mind, she had employed artists to prepare dies, and had collected vast stores of gold and silver, in the mints of

the different cities; and the moment she mounted the throne she commanded that they should coin immense quantities of roupies.— To make them the more remarkable (though contrary to the law of Mahomet) she had twelve different species, each of which had one of the signs of the zodiac, with her name stamped upon the face; the reverse bore that of Gehanguir; and so artfully and secretly had this business been conducted, that during her short reign they were sent to all parts of the empire.

Being

Being thus assured that her name, as an imperial sovereign, would reach posterity, she resolved to effect a reform, which would, in some degree, insure the stability of the throne, while it proved her abilities for the task she had undertaken. She had, during the period she had been at court, taken every opportunity to get information, respecting the talents, the connexions, the views, and even the tempers, of the grandees, especially those employed in the army, or the government of distant provinces. She saw that many of them had accumulated preferments and riches on themselves, and their de-

dependants, till, despising the imbecile temper of the sultan, they had become terrific to the empire. Taking a list in her hand, which she had well considered, and touching the names with her sceptre, one hour displaced the refractory, and the next filled up the vacancies with such, as from the same penetration, she judged could be depended upon.

In the treasury, the law, every department of the state, she made the same reformation ; her orders, whether from the admiration their novelty excited, or the wisdom that attended them, were obeyed with

with alacrity; and the laws and regulations of Nourmahall pervaded the whole kingdom.

In the morning the states again assembled; the sultan seated himself upon the throne; he heard, with wonder and admiration, the acts of the queen; and he had the wisdom to discover, that many of them tended to the safety of his empire; others to increase the happiness of his subjects; and in that, respecting the coinage, he admired an elevated mind panting to reach posterity. He, therefore, when she advanced to deliver him the sceptre, took her hand, saying,
“ Share,

“Share, O lovely Nourmahall ! share with me the honours and cares of a situation you are so well calculated to adorn. From this moment,” continued he, placing her beside him, “you reign my equal in the government; though I have little doubt, but in the active and executive part of it, your sublime and elevated mind will rise as superior to mine, as your beauty, genius, and elegance, are to those of any of my subjects.”

From that time, the situation which the queen had so ardently desired, was secured to her during the life of Gehan-guir.

NOUR-

NOURMAHALL,
QUEEN OF THE INDIES.

PART II.

SEATED upon the highest pinnacle of the temple of fortune, with youth, beauty and power in her possession; and the revenues, the subjects, the pleasures and luxuries, of an immense empire at her command; revered by the nobles,

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nobles, and adored by the people, the queen of Indostan began her reign.

“Nothing is now wanting,” said she, to herself, “to complete my bliss; for as I shall study to increase the happiness of my people, they will, doubtless, wish to render my government permanent. Placed beyond the power of accident, every day will add to my satisfaction; and while my actions are the admiration of the present age, posterity will gaze with pleasure upon the name of Nourmahall, inscribed in the volume which records the lives of

those heroes and legislators that have adorned the world."

Gehan-guir, from the time that he shared the sovereignty with the queen, had, every hour greater reason to be satisfied with the choice he had made of a coadjutor, as, by her, the burden of government was lifted from his shoulders; as her penetrating eye, and capacious mind, saw and provided against all possible contingencies.

The nations around, who had paid but little respect to the meekness of the sultan, her towering spirit awed into submission. The
re-

rebellion of Kouram, after a few fruitless efforts on the part of the prince, shrunk to nothing before the valour of troops, stimulated and rewarded by the beautiful Nourmahall; that chief, abandoned by his friends, who flocked to worship the sun which had risen in the empire, retired, and lived upon his government.

Upon the fall of rebellion, commerce, which had receded from the exterior provinces, again reared its head; the arts, which the first blast of civil commotion had scattered, returned; a long, long series of years elapsed, and every
new

new æra that dawned was hailed as an epoch of happiness, as it continued, and added to a long train of successes that attended the subjects of the Mogul empire.

It is now time to pause, and ask, whether respected abroad, revered at home, courted, flattered, adored, idolized—the happiness of the sultaneſs was insured? Was she perfectly satisfied with her august situation, the pleasures of which had been so strongly impressed upon her mind? Far from it.

When the novelty arising from unlimited power had become familiar to her, she found she had only looked at the picture in the strong glare of light which her vivid imagination had thrown upon it; that she had only viewed the splendour, and that her dazzled eyes had never observed, that the most brilliant parts of the representation were brought forward to the sight by the strong touches and dark shades of care, with which they were surrounded. She had never till now thought of the anxieties attendant upon a crown; she now experienced the weight, as she had before admired
the

the glitter of that ornament; and found that her anxieties and difficulties were considerably increased by the indolence of Gehanguir, who, happy to recede from a situation which he saw was much more ably filled, in a short time left to the sultana the management of all matters, foreign and domestic.

It was then she discovered that her toil, by such a tide of affairs, rushing upon her, was to a great degree increased, while her amusements and pleasures (to which she had no aversion) were abridged; as almost every hour was obliged

to be dedicated, either to the arrangement or execution of the extensive concerns of her immense empire.

For many years after governing had ceased to please, her spirit and understanding had enabled her to attend to the intricacies of it without repining; but as she advanced in life, her good sense was frequently urging her to withdraw from it. Contrary to the disposition of most monarchs, whose ambition grows with their years, was the temper of Nourmahall; with her the pleasures of pomp and power faded upon the mind; her wish to exercise despotic sway
de-

decreas'd, she sigh'd for quiet and seclusion, and had as great a desire to relinquish her elevated station, as in her youth she had to attain it.

How little (her heart whispered to her in a moment of leisure) do short sighted mortals know what is best calculated to make them happy. How little (with all my boasted genius) till taught by experience, did I understand the real situation of a sovereign: I had only consider'd him as an Idol set up for his people to worship. I had only look'd at the pleasures attending unlimited sway, without reflecting that a strict account

must be render'd of the use made of power thus delegated, and that, to a thinking mind, the wish to employ it properly, and diffuse its influence around, as a guard, a protection, a blessing to the people, should be the first object of a monarch's attention, and will if sedulously pursued, demand the whole of his time, and make his life a life of care.

While Nourmahall made these reflections, the voluptuous Gehan-guir, was endeavouring to act in direct opposition to them; regardless of his subjects, his whole time was dedicated to pleasure.

His

His passion for her, which at first arose from her charms, then became blended with admiration of her understanding; was afterwards absorb'd in the superiority of her talents; and while he sought the amusements which younger beauties afforded, and for whom his fondness increased with his years; he only consider'd the once ador'd Nourmahall, as an object whose genius commanded the greatest reverence and respect.

As fame had dispers'd upon the wings of every wind that blew, the story of the daughter of Ibrihim, the Persian Captain, and

as none of the beauties that reign'd in the Seraglio were ignorant of the steps by which she ascended to her present elevated station, they endeavour'd to climb by the same means to the summit of power.

Splendid and fascinating scenes were repeated before the eyes of the monarch, by the favourite of the hour, in which each display'd her taste and elegance to the extent of her capacity, and probably some of their blandishments would have been attended with the success which the ambitious rivals of Nourmahall wish'd, had not an event happened, which put a final stop to the gaieties of the Haram,

Haram, relieved her from the cares attendant upon a throne and made her once more a dependant.

Gehan-guir who had long been called the favourite of fortune: courted by pleasures on every side, whose wishes were anticipated, and whom every morning awakened to new scenes of luxury, was enjoying the delights of the banquet, furrounded with the flatterers that had lately become his almost constant companions. The music ceased while an ode was recited, which celebrated the virtues of the monarch.

The

The speaker had concluded a stanza which compared his power to that of Omnipotence, and an hundred voices and instruments joined in full chorus to repeat the praises of the immortal Gehanguir.

At that instant he was struck by the angel of death: sudden he fell at the foot of his throne, and tho' assistance was near it was ineffectual. An arm more potent, a power superior to his own, had, from the height of his exultation and vain glory, called the Great Mogul into his presence.

This

This melancholy conclusion of a day, which had began with such festivity, filled the Palace with lamentations.

The women tore their hair, and beat their breasts. The eunuchs, and slaves acted a thousand extravagances: the nobles assembled, and commotions began to shake the peace and order of the city.

Tho' this stroke of destiny, fell upon Nourmahall, without any previous notice or preparation, and she expected to be the greatest sufferer, yet she bore it with the same firmness of mind, which had distinguished

tinguished her through life; and observing the unsettled state of the empire, she set herself to remedy the evil. She called the grandees together, whom, in an eloquent speech, she exhorted to preserve the quiet of the state, both for their own sakes, and those of the people, who must, many of them unavoidably fall, in case of civil contention. She represented to them, that she only retained the crown till the arrival of the son of Gehan-guir when she would resign that symbol of monarchy with more pleasure than she received it. Her voice and animated manner, stilled the murmurs which had

had stolen upon her ears, when she entered the hall, and charmed by her elocution some of the nobles offered to support her in her present situation, but that, with marks of displeasure, she positively refused,

Kouram, or as he was afterwards called Cha-gehan, was at his father's death in a distant part of Indostan where he had lived for some time. Tho' he had laid down his arms, curbed by the effective measures adopted by the queen, whose genius he observed soared far above his, that circumstance had not induced him to retract the ill opinion he had conceived of her; on
the

the contrary, he expected the strongest opposition from the ambition that had marked her former conduct; therefore when he received the news of his father's death, he collected an army, and expected nothing so much as to be impeded by the forces of the empire in his way to Delhi. Great was his surprise when he approached that capital, to observe the few soldiers that were stationed upon the road, opening their ranks and suffering his troops to march through them, paying him at the same time military honours; and still greater upon his arrival at the city, when the gates were thrown open,

open, and he was welcomed with the loudest acclamations. A deputation of the principal nobility, who had been sent by the queen, conducted him to the palace.

A reception so totally different from what he expected, added to the surprise of Cha-gehan. When he entered the hall of audience, Nourmahall dressed in one of her most splendid habits, was seated upon the throne.

At his approach she arose, and descending the steps, met him in the hall, and kneeling, presented him the sceptre, saying, "Receive,

“ceive, oh Sultan! This symbol of power, as a legacy left you by your father; ascend the throne of your ancestors, and that your reign, guided by justice, and conducted by humanity, may be long and prosperous, shall ever be the prayer of Nourmahall.”

The prince (when his astonishment had ceased) said, “How can I place myself on this elevated seat, without blushing, to see one who has guided the safety, and increased the splendour of the Mogul empire, kneel at my feet—rise illustrious Nourmahall, and share it with me: be my guide and assistant,

ant, through the arduous task I have undertaken." "At your command (she replied) I rise, but it is only to retire: too long has my ambition been satiated: too much of greatness have I known.—I have had no time even to mourn for my late husband.—The gaudy trappings and splendour which my situation, as representative of a great empire demanded, are from this hour abandoned for ever.—To widow's weeds and strict seclusion I dedicate two succeeding years.—Yet e'er I go I have a double petition to the Sultan; my first request is, that he would endeavour to alleviate the

H sorrows

sorrows of his brother Merodac, who has been released from prison by my orders, but who hath suffered severely in being deprived of fight and empire (by the late monarch) for his rebellion and disobedience. The other more immediately concerns myself, as it turns my mind to that hour, when inflamed by ambition, panting for fame, and wishing for the applause of posterity, I disobeyed the laws of our prophet, and caused the likeness of creatures, both in heaven and on earth, to be stamped upon the coin, which he dispensing the commands of a superior power had forbidden. Let those pieces, which
are

are now dispersed over your dominions, as tokens of my vanity, be recalled; and as vanity no longer exists in my bosom, I shall lay aside all vestiges of royalty, and (with your permission) retire to the black marble palace, where as a tribute to the memory of Gehan-guir, I shall, in my daily prayers, invoke the omnipotent Allah, to shower down his choicest blessings upon the head of his son."

Nourmahall made her obedience to the sultan and left the hall followed by the eunuchs, and ladies of her train.

Cha-gehan struck by her manner, astonished at the order with which affairs had been conducted, and penetrated by her generosity, settled upon her the palace at Agra, and the extensive demesnes annexed to it.

Two years the princess passed in seclusion; she afterwards (as her active mind preyed upon itself when unemployed) turned her attention to works of utility and benevolence; she instructed the young, supported the aged, and cultivated genius that would otherwise have languished in obscurity.

Her

Her high rank, and extensive talents, attracted those around her, whose dispositions and pursuits were similar to her own; thus in the pleasures of domestic society, the amusements of literature, and the refinements of the polite arts; the days of Nourmahall glided smoothly on, and happy in her situation, she frequently asked herself this question: "What is the satisfaction arising from dissipation, splendour, power, pomp, and ambition, compared to that which I now enjoy?" She then extended her idea and continued: "After having long reigned the tyrant of his people, after having run his

career of what is falsely called glory! After having conquered provinces and nations, might we not repeat the question I have just asked myself, and with great propriety say to a monarch or hero! Ah, friend! I much doubt whether your time would not have been more usefully employed to yourself, and more acceptably in the eye of Omnipotence, had you tended a flock, cultivated a garden, or taught a village school.

THE

THE FAIR HIBERNIAN.

CHAP. I.

TOWARDS the close of one of the hottest days in summer, the Sultan Achmet was enjoying the coolness which the marine zephyr afforded, in the bay of the Bosphorus. His brigantine, which was of the most beautiful structure, glided smoothly along, while the

H 4 rowers

rowers kept time with their oars to the dulcet sound of flutes, hautboys, and other soft music; to which by their strokes dashing against the waves, they formed an agreeable cadence—the wind scarcely waved the filken pennons—the rays of the sun reflected obliquely the lengthened shade of the vessel, whose sails, gilding, and colours, threw a variety of tints on the waves, and appeared when blended with the glowing sky, a beautiful picture inverted—all nature was softened, the air breathed perfume, and every object around seemed to partake of the composure and serenity which the approach of evening,

evening, and the declining sun usually inspires.

The sultan had drawn up one of the silk curtains, that adorned the cabin window, and was looking toward the land which every moment brought nearer to his view, when a shrill and piercing shriek awakened his attention—he started, and after endeavouring in vain to discover from whence the voice came, he called to the bostangi bafsa, (who sat at the stern) and commanded him to try if he could discern any object from which it could be supposed the voice proceeded: in vain for some minutes
were

were his efforts, at last one of the officers who had climbed up to the yards, informed the bostangi that he saw at a distance something floating though it scarcely seemed larger than a buoy upon the surface of the waves.

A boat was instantly manned, and under the direction of the officer, they rowed toward the place from whence the small object had appeared.

The vessel by the exertions of the mariners, flew through the waves, and they soon arrived at the place pointed out to them: a
substance

substance like a bundle of silk was clearly discernable, they rowed along side of it with great caution, and when within reach, two of the men stretched out their arms, just as it was sinking, and, to their great surprise, received into them the body of a woman. When they had it safe in the boat, the sailors were commanded to use their utmost exertions to reach the brigantine, which was easily accomplished, as they lay upon their oars to wait for them.

The Grand Signior heard the account of the officer with astonishment; he ordered the body to be laid
upon

upon the carpet in the great cabin; while he viewed it with equal attention and compassion, as he took one of the hands, to feel if any pulse remained, he observed a small tremulous motion on the lips, this he considered as a sign that life had not entirely fled, and ordered her head to be raised against the sofa, and some liquors to be forced into her mouth; while this was doing the vessel reached shore.

The body was conveyed with great tenderness to the seraglio, and Achmet, who had hopes that he should be the means of restoring a human creature to existence, ordered

ordered that his physician should attend, and that the utmost efforts for her recovery should be made by the women acting under his direction.

When the sultan returned from prayers in the morning, the first object of his inquiry was into the measures that had been adopted; and he received, with great pleasure, the news, that the lady, for whom he interested himself, was in some degree brought to life, but that though she had spoken, it was in a language not understood by any around her, and with such gestures as seemed to indicate that
her

her mind had suffered a considerable derangement.

Rest and quiet, the physician said, would soon restore her.

Achmet, rejoicing in her preservation, said to himself: "It was but a few days since I was repining, that although the despotic monarch of a vast empire, I had found but few opportunities to be of service to mankind, and that those had been in a great degree counteracted by the deception, unworthiness, or ingratitude of the objects upon whom my favours have been bestowed."

"The

“The seminary I have formed for the education of youth, has indeed, in a great measure rewarded me for the pains I took in conquering the prejudices against such an establishment, in the pleasure it gives me at present, and the advantage it may be to my kingdom in future; for though the monuments of my victories adorn several parts of this city, and the trophy which I won when I conquered the Giant of Bagdad, is gazed upon with admiration by all who frequent the outward hall of my palace, yet neither have given me the satisfaction which the forming the minds of my subjects, or the preservation of
a life,

a life, just sinking into eternity, sudden, and perhaps unprepared, hath afforded."

The physician and officers of the seraglio, observing the interest which the sultan took in the welfare of the lady, the eagerness of his morning inquiries, and the directions which he constantly gave in the evening respecting her accommodation, thought that his anxiety in behalf of the stranger would be a good topic to descant upon when asked for news by the Sultaneſs Fatima, and, as the passions that reign in the world were not shut out of the seraglio, there was found (even

even in that retreat) people ready to impute benevolent actions to sinister motives, and eager to communicate the story with considerable additions to that prince's.

Disappointed were they, when they observed the generous Fatima heard this tale with no other emotions than those which humanity excited.

She commanded the slaves to lead her to the bed of the stranger: she saw her in the moment of derangement, inquired into the circumstances of the case from the female attendants, and into the symptoms of her disorder from the

VOL. I. I physicians,

physicians, and after folding the fair sufferer in her arms, and dropping the tear of compassion upon her bosom, she left her to seek the sultan: what passed between them was unknown; but the attendants were surprised to see them walk hand in hand through the gallery to the princess's apartments; from whence the eunuchs brought fresh orders, respecting the care of the person whom the sultana called her lovely charge: upon this the attention of the physicians was redoubled.

In a few days they reported that her senses were perfectly restored, and

and her health considerably amended. As it was found that she spoke the Italian, French and English languages, two slaves from the former country were ordered to attend her; and so much was her mind soothed, and her spirits composed, by the methods prescribed, that in less than two months her perfect recovery was announced to the sultan; he therefore with great self congratulation on the next day, ordered her into his presence.

Achmet, had in his seraglio (as had been the custom of his predecessors) from the several countries

around, a large collection of beauties: the Georgian, the Persian, the Italian, the Circassian, and the Greek, and though attached to the Sultana Fatima, (by whom he had a numerous family) he had occasionally been struck with the various styles of perfection which marked their different characters. The piercing eye and black tresses, which predominated in the east, were familiar to his sight, the polished roundness and elegant form of the Greek, the animated Italian, the majestic Circassian he had frequently admired; till at length the vast number of slaves, which the merchants were continually offering

ing, though they might engage a momentary and transient attention were forgotten as soon as they had passed.

Far different were his sensations with respect to the lady now before him, a stile of beauty unlike any he had seen, riveted his eyes upon her; the most dazzling complexion in which, through a transparency of the skin, the azure tints appeared, and veins meandered, while the approach of the sultan to take her hand, diffused the roses that blushed in her cheeks over her whole countenance; dark blue eyes, teeth which seemed of pearl, set in a frame of rubies, a

redundance of flaxen-hair, which was in part confined by a tiara, while the rest fell in ringlets over a form in which the elegant and majestic were united; a form, which disdaining to borrow assistance from dress, was only attired in a loose drapery of white muslin, tied under the bosom by a zone of blue. The langour which her illness had left, the awe which her present situation inspired, the blushing timidity with which she approached, rendered her figure so interesting, that Achmet stood for some minutes lost in admiration, before he had power to say:

“ When

“When I valued myself upon my humanity, and was exulting in the pleasing idea, that owing to my exertions, the life of a human creature was preserved, I little knew the value of the prize I had rescued from the waves.—At this moment, struck by your beauty, attracted by your irresistible personal graces, my merit, in my own eyes, appears ten times more conspicuous.—May it be of the same value in your’s! And if you wish that the life I have preserved may in future be rendered happy, unfold to Achmet your history, and command his services, to second the hand of Providence, which has been

so miraculously displayed in your preservation and recovery.”

“ After having paid my thanks to heaven (said she kneeling) let me offer to you, most benevolent Achmet, my most grateful acknowledgments, for the saving of a life, which though hitherto of little value to the possessor, will in future become of some consequence, from having excited your attention and humanity.” “ The attention and admiration of Achmet (said he, raising her) you have indeed strongly excited, as also another passion, which is curiosity, I would wish to be informed of
your

your story, and learn by what means your lovely form came to be exposed to the danger from which you was rescued; and I am happy in having in my youth attained the French language, as I can hold a conversation with you, without the medium of an interpreter."

"Little interesting to your highness, will, I fear be my story (said the lady, while he handed her to a seat) my name formerly was Isabella Dalton, I was born in Ireland, of parents who died (as I have been informed) before I was old enough to retain the least traces of them

them in my memory, I have a confused idea of being in foreign lands, and crossing seas in my infancy, but it seems a dream, which it is impossible to discriminate. When reason dawned, I found myself an orphan, in the care of an uncle, who appeared as a merchant, and said he was connected with a company in London that traded to Italy. The first years of my life were passed at a boarding school, in the southern part of the island, where I acquired those accomplishments that are commonly taught at such seminaries. I remained at school till I had entered my fourteenth year; when one day I was informed

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ed that a gentleman waited for me in the parlour: I went directly and there found my uncle, whom I had not seen for some years (he having been absent in England) he embraced me with great affection, seemed pleased with my improvement, and struck with my appearance. He came to let me know, that he had been commissioned by the company (with whom he was connected) to make a voyage to Italy, in order to collect debts, settle affairs, and increase their correspondence. He said, as this was a business that would detain him abroad some years, and those the most critical
of

of my life, he should not be easy, unless he had me under his inspection, and therefore proposed that I should accompany him. I had, in my desultory reading, frequently met with voyages and travels, which I perused with avidity and delight, and often sighed that I could only speculate upon the pleasures they contained, therefore Mr. Dalton could not have made me a more agreeable proposal."

" I took leave of my governess and female companions; the transitory tear which parting from the friends of my youth, and the scenes of my juvenile pleasures occasioned,

ed, was soon wiped away, and lost in the contemplation of the new world, that opened to my view, I arrived at Dublin, in great spirits. After a few weeks had been spent in the amusements of that gay metropolis, and in making preparations for our voyage, we sailed from the port, and had what the sailors called a good passage to Leghorn."

"Tho' the fears which naturally attend a female mind, took possession of mine, upon launching into the immense ocean, and only subsided when sickness had blunted the powers of reflection, yet upon
my

my recovery, I found them entirely evaporated, lost in the novelty of the scenes around, and soothed by the care and attention of my uncle; I therefore landed in perfect health, and began to enjoy those pleasures in reality, which had formerly been only ideal."

"When we had been a few weeks in Italy, the commercial affairs of my uncle (he said) called him away, and I was placed in the house of Madame Piaffer, a lady to whom all the English and French in the place paid particular attention.

Though

“ Though I had seen little of the world, it required no great skill in discrimination to discern, that her conduct was different from that of my governess, and other respectable ladies that I had known; notwithstanding she had passed the meridian of life, her dress was a composition of glare and gaudiness, she affected to lead the fashion, and both in her behaviour and conversation, betrayed a freedom, which had never before come under my observation in the female character.”

“ Our house was the assembly of all the young, gay and dissipated in
the

the town; cards, balls, and petit soupés, we were either in the constant habit of giving or partaking of, and tho' Madame Piaffer would not suffer me from her sight, and indeed seemed to mark my behaviour with the most scrutinizing attention." Here the sultan smiled, and Isabella, in great confusion, continued:

"Your highness, I observed to smile at the asperity with which I was inclined to remark upon the lady's paying a strict attention to my conduct, I will not conceal from you, that her being constantly at my elbow, was displeasing to me

me on more accounts than one. I had now been two years in Italy and in that period, we had removed to different places, in every one of which we found ourselves objects that attracted curiosity; to my Chaperon I left general admiration, but it would be errant dissimulation to deny, that I was pleased with the attention of a young Englishman who had followed us through all our various removals till we settled at Rome, where we expected to be joined by my uncle.

“ When we had been a short time in that city, I was one morn-

ing much surprised by Madame Piaffer, who desiring me to attend her in her closet, said, that as I was now arrived at years of discretion, she would unfold to me a secret, which had been long and faithfully kept: she then proceeded to inform me, that I must no longer look upon Mr. Dalton as my uncle; that in fact I was in no degree related to him, being a foundling child, whom he had taken from motives of charity, that his fondness for me in my infancy, had increased with my years, and that every time he had seen me in Italy had added to it; therefore I might expect the most unbounded opulence from the

3

passion

passion and generosity of my guardian, whose fortune she described as immense.

I was so shocked and confounded by this discourse, that instead of answering her, I rushed out of the room, and was stopped at the door by Mr. Dalton, who caught me in his arms, and after a fervent embrace, brought me back to the sofa, from whence the lady retreated and left us together.

Here he, in the strongest terms, made a declaration of his passion; my refusal of him was expressed in terms equally strong: a scene of

struggling and altercation ensued, when, upon his proceeding to take liberties, I shrieked with great vehemence, and at that instant, the youth I mentioned, rushed into the closet with his sword drawn, and in the English language, commanded him to unhand me. This command was immediately complied with, and Dalton attacked him with a fury, which gave his opponent an opportunity to disarm him in an instant."

"Madame Piaffer had now joined us, and seemed greatly surprised at what had happened, she lectured Mr. Dalton upon his behaviour,

haviour, which he said, had arisen from the ebullitions of the moment of intoxication, which my resistance, and the subsequent events had dissipated: he craved my pardon, and stretched out his hand, in friendship to the youth that had assailed him; which action, in some degree influenced my forgiveness, and as my situation was such, that I had no retreat, I was prevailed on to pass over this outrage for the present."

My protector, I observed before, I had frequently seen, and indeed, that I could not speak to him unobserved by Madame, was the rea-

son that made me repine at her close attention, of which your highness took notice."

"Unfortunate Frederick! A martyr to love and benevolence: will the remembrance of thy form, thy virtues, thy humanity, and thy passion, ever be erased from the bosom of Isabella?"

No! though the ocean has become thy grave, in this breast thy image will remain till my heart ceases to vibrate!.

The distress of the lady became so great, that Achmet, after he
had

had in vain, tried to comfort her, withdrew, commanding her women to attend her, and went to the divan, impressed with emotions of pity, at the part of her story which he had heard, and impatient for the remainder.

THE FAIR HIBERNIAN

CHAP. II.

THE next morning Achmet, having some time to spare, sent for Isabella; whom he desired to be seated, and she resumed her story in the following words:

“ I was scarcely less watchful of Mr. Dalton and Madame Piaffer,

fer, than they were over me; the former treated me with a fullen kind of respect, and the latter with an overstrained complaisance; I was equally upon my guard against both."

"Left more to myself than I had been, my thoughts were in a great measure occupied by the amiable Englishman, whom gratitude, and perhaps (said she, blushing) a softer passion, continually presented to my mind. The consultations of my two companions (for I will not call them friends) were frequent, and I feared they boded me no good, that my
fears

fears were not groundless, this letter (said she, taking one from her bosom in a gold case) will convince your Highness:

“ Will the lovely Isabella, listen to the admonition of a real friend? Yes! She surely will, when she is informed, that anxious for her honour and happiness, I have discovered a plot to destroy both. You will not be much surprised, that the authors of it, are Mr. D— and Madame P— whose characters have by me been developed, very little to their credit.

“ The

“The City of Rome they think too public to be the scene of their infernal machinations; a tour to Florence will be proposed to you, and upon the certainty of that being done, I stake the reputation of this epistle. A house is provided in a sequestered situation, near the banks of the river Arno; where that ruin, which I had once the good fortune to prevent, will be accomplished.”

“Shall I again rescue you? If I do, I must inform you, that I expect your hand as a reward, as I see no other means by which I
can

can be legally entitled to become your protector."

"Tho' of a noble family, and heir to a considerable estate in England, I should not take advantage of your distress, nor so abruptly presume to lay myself and fortune at your feet, did not the present situation of your affairs require you to take a decided part. That I have long loved you; that I have followed you like your shade, and silently adored you, cannot have escaped your observation; that I have watched over you, like your guardian angel, will perhaps, in your generous mind, be deemed a merit; but

but it would have been kept a secret from you, did not the present hour warrant a suspension of form, in order to secure your honour, and my happiness."

"If you see any reason to leave the house of Madame P— you will endeavour to be in the garden about eight o'clock this evening, when you will be convinced of the love, honour, and sincere attachment of your

FREDERICK BERKLEY."

"The sensations with which I read this letter, will be more easily conceived by your highness, than they

they can be expressed by me; with respect to the intimation contained in it, I found it literally true; the journey to Florence was proposed by Madame Piaffer, and acceded to by Mr. Dalton; I heard it with the utmost trepidation, and as it was to take place early the next morning; I left the room, under pretence of retiring to my chamber to make preparations. When I had gained the staircase, I stood a considerable time hesitating, and undetermined whether to go up or descend, when the loud voice of Dalton, as I thought approaching, turned the balance, I flew into the garden, and was met by

by Frederick, who, with the assistance of a friend, hurried me along the walk, and through the back gate, which was wide open: they lifted me into a carriage which was in waiting, and we flew like lightning. In this whirl of confusion, we must have proceeded several miles, before I had an opportunity to recollect myself, when I did, not all the soothing of my lover, could reconcile me to my fate; I began to repent my temerity, and to fear, that I had exchanged one dangerous situation for another, perhaps for a worse.

To

“ To dissipate these fears, which were not unobserved by Frederic, he informed me that one of the gentlemen in the carriage was a clergyman, and chaplain to an English nobleman then at Naples, whither he was travelling to join him, and the other was his own brother, that he hoped, as soon as we arrived at Benevento, I would suffer the ceremony to be performed, by which, he claimed my hand, as a reward for his knight errantry.”

“ As I had no alternative, I consented, and when we came to the town, we were married, first, according to the Roman Catholic form,

form, and afterwards by the gentleman who travelled with us."

"Young Mr. Berkley and his companion, stayed with us but a few hours after our nuptials, having proceeded to Naples, whither in a short time we followed. It is needless to say I was charmed with that city, in which we resided many months, being introduced to the principal nobility, presented at court, and sharing in all the pleasures that luxurious region afforded."

"It was in this season of love and gaiety, that I fancied all the

joys, which my early excursive ideas had painted upon my mind, were realized. Weeks, months, flew like lightning—in the arms of Frederick, all former disagreeable occurrences, nay, even Dalton and his companion were forgotten.”

“ One evening, the latter end of July, when under the influence of the Dog Star, the Siroc, which had raged through the day, subsided with the declining sun, and a breeze springing up from the sea, rendered it uncommonly pleasant; it was proposed by a large party, that we should enjoy the
3 gale

gale in a water excursion, upon the Bay of Naples: two boats were launched, and we were rowed from shore, with minds disposed to the greatest hilarity."

"The stillness of the evening, the refreshing zephyr, and the beauty of the scenes around, induced us to prolong our pleasure: the moon in silent majesty arose, and while its gleams played in silvery streaks upon the undulating waves, the city receding into the form of a crescent, the rocks and trees that enriched the shores, the Pharos, and Castle of St. Elmo in the fore, and the Vulkanos

fmoaking in the back ground, presented a scene to the view, at once picturesque and sublime."

"The rowers began the evening hymn, and the cadences dispersed by the breeze, echoed through the rocks, till their distant murmurs died upon the ear."

"Allured by the pleasure we were enjoying, and which every object conspired to increase, our bark had got further out to sea than was at first intended, when the sailors discerned a galley of considerable size making towards them; as they were not at a distance

tance to be alarmed, they lay upon their oars till the vessel came near them, (but your highness will scarcely conceive our surprise) when they saluted us with a piece of ordnance; the rowers crossed themselves and fell upon their faces. The galley was now a long side, and some of the men jumping into our boat, seized me, and in spite of my cries, and some little resistance from the company, carried me on board the larger bark, which immediately set sail, their rowers at the same time using the utmost exertions. Unhappy Isabella! Where at that time, your highness will naturally ask, was Frederick?" "Indeed,

(said the Sultan) is a question to which I am impatient for an answer."

"I have mentioned, that our company were in two boats, one of which was considerably larger than the other; when we divided, as there were more ladies than gentlemen, my husband was persuaded to take the command of the smaller, which he did with reluctance as it separated him from me, though he had from early habits some skill in nautical affairs."

"Little, oh! Beloved Frederick! did either think, that by
this

this circumstance we should be separated for ever; as the people on board the galley, which seized me, said, that while the larger boat endeavoured to gain the shore, the small one pursued, and had nearly come up with their vessel, but, that upon another swivel being fired at them, they retreated, notwithstanding the exertions of their Captain, whom they observed to leap into the sea, and who undoubtedly perished directly."

Here the Sultan rose, and in compassion to the fair mourner adjourned the conversation till the next day.

THE FAIR HIBERNIAN.

CHAP. III.

WHEN the morning (which Achmet was waiting for with some impatience) came, he was surprised to see the Sultana Fatima enter with Isabella: she apologized for intruding on the privacy of his highness, (but said) "That having been made acquainted with the story of the fair Hibernian, as far as he had heard it, she

she could not deny herself the pleasure of partaking the remainder in his presence."

The sultan expressed his happiness at seeing her, and his thanks for the attention she had bestowed upon their lovely friend, who resumed her story.

"The intelligence that I received from the sailors, was a dagger, which seemed to pierce my heart, my faculties were suspended, and I sunk upon the floor in a swoon, from which I only awakened to a state of distraction. My phrenzy was considerably increased

creased by the appearance of Dalton and Madame Piaffer, among the persons that were endeavouring to administer comfort to me. To the presence of the latter though I thought it a misfortune, I probably owe my life, at that time, as she had a female servant on board, and they were indefatigable in their attention to me, during the illness that ensued."

"Of this melancholy period I can speak little, we landed on some island as I was told, but whose name I have forgot, and a considerable time elapsed before my

my health would permit me to be removed."

"While we stayed in this place, I learnt from the servant of Madame Piaffer, that Dalton, distracted at my flight, had pursued us immediately, but by some means or other, was either stopped or sent in a wrong direction, and that after he returned to Rome, he had received a letter, acquainting him with my marriage to the Honourable Mr. Berkley. Furious with rage, at this circumstance, he had (with his companion) followed us to Naples, where though he vowed revenge

revenge upon my husband and self, he had lived in great privacy, watching our motions, that the bark had been equiped for some time, and had frequently hovered about the scene of our water parties, but without having an opportunity to accomplish his design, till that fatal evening, when my separation from Frederick put me in his possession."

"As soon as I was sufficiently recovered to bear the voyage, a Venetian vessel being in readiness at the port, we went on board, and were sailing as I understood for Cyprus; contrary winds kept

us

us back for some days, during which I suffered considerably from the impatience and ill temper of Dalton, who was continually reviling and taxing me with ingratitude, though he did not presume to take any other liberties."

"On the morning of the fifth day, when we were in sight of the island, I observed there was a general alarm on board our vessel, occasioned (as I soon learned) by a Turkish Ship of force, bearing down upon us; they were a long side in an instant.

"As

“As hostilities had been some time commenced between your sublime Highness and the Venetians, they summoned our captain to surrender. Resistance in his situation, would have been nugatory, he therefore struck to the Crescent, and Dalton, Madame Piaffer and myself, were carried on board the Turkish Vessel.”

“The Bassa, who commanded the man of war, when he received us upon the deck viewed me with surprise, and treated me with the greatest tenderness and respect. We were now under sail, and soon came in sight of the crescents
and

and minerets, which adorn the tower of Constantinople, but as the wind fell, and the calm which succeeded, would not permit the large ship to enter the Bosphorus; the Bassa (whose impatience to be on shore, seemed every hour to increase) ordered out the small boat, and after manning it with a few sailors and handing me on board, commanded them to row with great expedition to the port; when we came within sight of a large and magnificent Brigantine, which I have been informed, contained your Highness, as the men were using the most violent exertions, something on board our
bark

bark gave a great crash, the Bassa, clasping his arms around me (said) a plank had started, and while he called upon the name of Allah! The boat filled and sunk in an instant."

"After that dreadful moment I remember nothing till I seemed to awake, as from a deep sleep, and found myself in an elegant bed, surrounded with attendants. I tried to recollect former events, but such a variety of indistinct ideas floated in my mind, that I could discriminate nothing; the room, the people, every object around, seemed so unlike what I had been used to,
that

that I wearied them, and distracted myself with questions. The appearance of a venerable man, with a long beard, who in an authoritative tone imposed silence both upon me and the attendants; and all the subsequent events are known to your Highness and the Sultana, to whom let me prostrate for the safety and preservation of the life of the unfortunate Isabella."

Achmet raised her up, and Fatima embraced and wept over her, saying, "My daughter, for so permit me to call you, tho' you have indeed been unfortunate, let us hope that the evil hour is past,

and that Providence will gild your future days with that happiness you seem so much to deserve."

"Think not, lovely Isabella, (said the sultan) that we wish to detain you in a country, the manners of which are so different from your own; if there is any clue by which you think your parentage may be traced, I will instantly dispatch messengers, and you shall be restored to your friends, (if they can be found) in a situation at which they need not blush (however high their rank may be) to acknowledge your relation to them."

"With

“With the Ottoman generosity (replied Isabella) my former reading has made me acquainted; but tho’ I knew that justice and compassion resided in this court, it was decreed I should survive to this hour, to be convinced that all my former ideas were but a faint picture of the benevolence I now experience, that I should be at once the object and admirer of the virtues, the benignity, the munificence of Achmet. The only means (she continued) by which my infantine situation can be discovered, is by Dalton and Madame Piaffer, whom I left on board the man of war, and who probably survive.”

The sultan and sultana acquiesced in the same opinion; and ordering the vizier into their presence, Achmet slightly gave him the outline of the story, and commanded that search should be made for Dalton and his companion.

The vizier, who had listened with the greatest attention to the tale, and to the command of the sultan, replied, "Your sublime Highness shall be instantly obeyed; the slave Dalton will easily be found; but a thought strikes me, which is, whether it would not be better to postpone his examination, till I
have

have made the English ambassador acquainted with what I know of the transaction, and desired him to be present at the inquiry."

"Be it as you say, (replied Achmet) let him be apprized of the matter.—In the mean time, Isabella, rest secure in the protection of the sultan, and the love of Fatima."

The sultana retired, followed by the Fair Hibernian, leaving the vizier with his master, who, after dispatching some necessary business, sent out messengers to ex-

ecute his commission with respect to Dalton.

The persons employed by the vizier found, that after the *bassâ* and sailors perished in the manner related, the man of war and her prize came into the port; the Venetians were sold as slaves to different persons; but as Dalton profest himself to be an Englishman, a nation at that time at peace with, and respected by the Turks, and moreover had interested the ambassador in his favour, he was permitted to go at large, under the sanction of his excellence, who gave his word, if called upon, to
pro-

produce him. This the messengers of the vizier learned, upon their inquiries; and that minister, appointing a day, desired the ambassador and Dalton to attend at the seraglio, upon business of importance.

THE FAIR HIBERNIAN.

CHAP. IV.

THO' the health of Isabella was in some degree re-established, that was far from being the case with respect to her peace of mind: in the loss of a beloved husband her heart had received a wound, which, tho' skinned over, still rankled at bottom, and rendered
her,

her, in the moment of retirement, a prey to the most cruel torture. In the sympathy of Fatima, and benevolence of Achmet, she found some small alleviation of her sorrows; but she looked forward, with the most tremulous anxiety, to the time which was fixed for the examination of Dalton.

That day at length arrived; the ambassador came, accompanied by him, and attended by a numerous train; they were introduced into the presence of the sultan, who, with the vizier and officers of the court, received him in the council chamber; the sultana

tana and Isabella were in a recess, before which a curtain of persian silk was drawn.

When the ceremonies were gone through, the vizier informed the ambassador that his sublime highness had requested his attendance to hear the examination of his countryman, respecting the fate of a young lady, whose name was Isabella, and who had been for some time under his protection.— At the mention of the name of Isabella, the trepidation of Dalton became visible, and his terror seemed to increase as the vizier ordered the interpreter to read the account which

which she had given, and which, at the command of the sultan, she had reduced to writing.

When it was finished, he prostrated himself before the monarch, saying, " May this awful moment, and my present situation, (when my story shall be known) operate as a warning and example to mankind, and inform them, that the guardian angels of the good and virtuous, will not suffer crimes to be committed against them with impunity. Of you, sir, (said he, turning to the ambassador) and your amiable lady, let me first entreat pardon ! as you were the

6

earliest,

earliest, I will not say the greatest, sufferers by my misdeeds."

The ambassador started at this intimation, and eagerly inquired how himself or his family could have been sufferers by a person he never recollected to have seen? "Surely! (replied Dalton) eighteen years cannot have so totally altered this form and features, but you must remember in my countenance some trace of O'Donnel, the favorite friend and companion of your brother, George Fitzwater."

"I do!"

“ I do! I do! (said the ambassador with great emotion) But why rake up the ashes of the dead? Why disturb the manes of one whose crimes have long slept with him in the silent sepulchre? You know better than myself, for you was, as I think, concerned in the infamous transaction; that he fell in consequence of an attempt to force a young lady of family in the north of Ireland from her protectors: Sudden! without preparation! with all his offences upon his head, he rushed into eternity, and left a stain upon a noble house, which the virtues of a long line
of.

of ancestry, and the honour and integrity of every branch of its present representatives can scarcely counterbalance."

"All this indeed (said O'Donnel) I am well apprised of: it is not for my own information, but yours, that I introduced the name of George, it was because you are not acquainted with all our misdeeds; for tho' you know his dissipation and extravagance were unbounded, you can scarcely conceive they led him to practise against your life. The ambuscade, from which you so narrowly escaped, was contrived, and partly executed

executed by him ; and after the loss of your son, when you could no longer bear the place where every object reminded you of him, when you went abroad in the honourable service of your country, and left an infant daughter to the care of Mrs. Coleville, whose obligations to the parents, yourself, and Lady Fitzwater, thought a security for her attention to their child."

" Hold (said the ambassador) nor revive the remembrance of my loss, without you can restore the object of it.—But that is impossible; from the delicacy of her

her constitution, which was the reason we left her, I must suppose she has long been dead, especially as neither the wife of Captain Coleville, or the infant, have since been heard of."

"I know it well; (he replied) your brother, whose excesses and wants caused him to languish for your possessions, tho' he exulted exceedingly in the death of your son and heir, yet considered your infant daughter as a bar between him and your personal fortune, (which he knew was immense) he therefore persuaded Mrs. Colville and myself, (as there was a
con-

connexion between us) to retire to the continent with the infant. We did so; and I need not call to your mind the inquiries that were made, or how fruitless they proved. When they had subsided, as the child, we supposed, had grown out of knowledge; and the gallant Mrs. Colville, who had assumed the name of Madame Piaffer, considered her as an incumbrance upon her pleasures and excursions, I was prevailed upon to take her with me to Ireland, and place her in a school remote from the place of her birth, but in a situation where I could occasionally see her. But how can I

continue my story? How can I, in this awful presence, become a self accuser, and relate the offences I have been guilty of, against the peace and happiness of the much injured Isabella?"

"Nor shall you! I would spare even the wicked, (said she, rushing forward, and throwing herself on her knees to the ambassador) Behold (she continued) your daughter! Behold the victim of relative cruelty in her infancy; the object, and almost the martyr, to an infamous passion in her riper years; the widow of an amiable and beloved husband; and at last the

the memorial of the humanity, the benignity, and the generosity of Achmet : Preserver of my life, (said she, turning and embracing the feet of the sultan) let this hour which restores me to my father, be marked, as adding one more to the long catalogue of objects upon whom your benevolence has been exerted with success!"

The ambassador, likewise prostrating himself, and folding his daughter in his arms, said, "Receive, Oh Achmet ! a father's thanks ! To you who truly support that character, both with re-

spect to your own offspring and to your people, they will be of some value; especially, as from your elevated situation, they are all that can be offered, either on the part of myself, or my beloved Amelia and Isabella."

The sultan, much moved with this scene, embraced them both, saying, "Seek not, illustrious Briton, to overpower Achmet with thanks for an act of common humanity, which there was no merit in the doing; but which to have neglected, would, in my situation, have been a crime of the deepest dye.

I con-

“ I congratulate you upon the recovery of your daughter, tho’ at the same time it is with some little envy, as her amiable manners and elegant accomplishments, have long made me wish to adopt her as an ornament and example to the rest of my family.”

Isabella retired for a few minutes to take leave of the sultana, during which time the sultan said, “ With respect to this criminal O’Donnel, and his female coadjutor, who I understand is in Constantinople, however amiable the virtues of humanity may be, they must not in a monarch be carried too far ;

as the suffering notorious offenders to go unpunished, has often proved not only a mistaken lenity to them, but a real cruelty to others; I shall therefore order them into close confinement, till we further determine what is to be done."

Sir Allen Fitzwater returned to Pera with Isabella, where, with great caution, he introduced her to her mother; the tenderness of the meeting may be better conceived than expressed; in a few days the two ladies in a brilliant equipage, with a numerous suite of attendants, were presented in form to the sultana Fatima. When
they

they had paid their respects, that princess said, "This is a visit of ceremony, and as such I receive it, but must not have it repeated: As soon as I saw Isabella my heart acknowledged her; let form and etiquette between us give place to tenderer sentiments; during your stay at Constantinople, let access to the seraglio be as free, and I hope it will be nearly as frequent, as to your own palace; so that when in future time I lament your loss, I may have the consolation to reflect that I neglected no opportunity to enjoy the pleasure of your company while you stay'd among us."

When their numerous visits were paid, and their spirits had in some degree tranquillized, Isabella was desired by her parents minutely to relate her history. She did so, and while with the most affectionate attention, they entered into the distress of her various situations; their paternal and maternal emotions were excited, as they travelled with her over former scenes; but what was their astonishment, when she mentioned the Hon. Mr. Berkley as her deceased husband.

“Mr. Berkley your husband?”
said Lady Fitzwater.

“Mr.

"Mr. Berkley your husband?
(echoed the ambassador) My secretary your husband?"

The astonishment of Isabella was equal to that of her parents; but with a flood of tears she assured them, that the gentleman she mentioned had been long lost, swallowed up by the waves in the bay of Naples.

"However, (said her father) as I am struck by the similarity of the name, let us inquire of my secretary, who I know has a brother; I had employed him upon
a dis-

a distant commission, from which he is this morning returned."

He ordered the servant to defer the attendance of Mr. Berkley.

Great was the surprise of Isabella, to discover in the ambassador's secretary the brother of her beloved husband, who had been present at their marriage.

At the sight of his relative resemblance her tears began to flow afresh; and the young gentleman's emotions were so great, that it was some minutes before he could ejaculate.

"Do

“Do I again behold my lovely sister?—Now will the happiness of Frederick be compleat.”

“Does he live?” said Isabella.

“He does!”—“Where?”—“In Pera.”

She threw herself upon the sofa, and after some time struggling with her emotions, burst into tears, saying, “You certainly flatter me! To convince me that Frederick is alive, let me instantly see him.”—Here her mother interfered, saying, “There was no doubt of the truth of what Mr. Berkley asserted; but that she must suffer her emotions to subside,

side, before an interview with Frederick would, either on her account or his, be proper; that in the mean time they would learn from his brother what he knew of his history."

Mr. Berkley said, that Frederick informed him of the transactions at Naples; and that when his wife was forced away, he had leaped into the sea, to endeavour to swim after the vessel; but that when his strength was nearly exhausted, he was taken up by their own boat: that a considerable time elapsed before, with all his assiduity, he could learn the destination

tinuation of the galley; but after taking immense pains he traced it to Malta, where, when he arrived, he learned that Dalton had sailed with her in a Venetian ship for Cyprus, at which place he heard of its capture, and of her being carried into the Turkish Port.—

Distracted with this intelligence, and the more so as he was obliged to remain some months upon the island, before (upon account of the war) he could get a passage to Constantinople, where he arrived a few weeks since, and where, to the destruction of his peace, he heard from the officers of the Turkish man of war the fate of
the

the bafsa and female captive; tho' a faint gleam of hope had lately arisen from his inquiries among the people belonging to the fultan's brigantine, that the life of his wife might have been preserved, yet he considered her as for ever lost to him; immured within the walls of the feraglio, of which he entertains the most dreadful ideas.

While Mr. Berkley recited this story, the emotions of Isabella a little subsided; and the ambassador considering that she might suffer more from suspense than any other circumstance, whispered him

him to go and inform his brother of the events that had happened, and bring him to them.

During the interim of his absence, the father and mother of Isabella were employed in opposing reason to passion, in censuring violent emotions, and laying down rules for her conduct in the ensuing interview.—She heard them with attention, but their precepts vanished the moment the door opened, and she found herself in the arms of Frederick. Overpowered with the torrent of happiness that rushed upon them, this young couple sunk upon the
6 sofa,

sofa, in a state that made their friends around fearful for their intellects.

When they were composed enough to receive their congratulations, the father of Isabella said, "I thought when I recovered my long-lost daughter, that nothing could add to my happiness; but I find I was mistaken, as I this day acquire a son who will, I have no doubt, be equally worthy my love and regard; and have by his means formed a connexion with a family, which (had I made my selection from the many noble and worthy ones of our island) would have been the object of my choice.

May the memory of former misfortunes, my children, be obliterated in present and future happiness, and while you prove blessings to your parents, may you be an honour to your country!"

In the tender embraces of Amelia, and rejoicings upon this happy event, the day was passed; the next morning the ambassador presented his son to the sultan, who, with a warmth and ardour which pleased the generous Achmet, thanked him for the preservation of Isabella.

At the same time Lady Fitzwater and the young lady waited upon the sultana, who seemed much interested in the fortunate turn which their affairs had taken.

O'Donnel and Madame Piaffer had continued in close confinement for a considerable time, tho' both Frederick and Isabella had petitioned the ambassador to speak to the vizier in their favor; this he seemed reluctant to do, as independant of the resentment he entertained against them on his own account, he did not wish to interfere with the justice of the sultan.

To

To Fatima, therefore, it was determined that the young lady should apply; that princess told her that she durst not venture into the presence of Achmet, with a request that must counteract his decree, unattended; therefore, she must accompany her. They descended the black marble staircase, and found the monarch in his garden, when the sultana said, "I hope, Achmet, we do not intrude upon your privacy; if we have committed that offence the fault is Isabella's, as I only came to support her in a request she has to make."

“ It must be a very unreasonable one I should suppose, from the caution of Fatima; (replied Achmet) however as it would be ungallant, and indeed impossible to deny any thing to the beauties that now petition, (that I may have an excuse to myself) I promise to grant it before I know what it is; therefore, Isabella, speak your wishes, in the certainty of having them complied with.

She then, with great timidity, begged for the liberation of O'Donnel and Madame Piaffer, which the sultan instantly ordered, upon condition they left Constantinople

Constantinople in a few days; this they complied with, and, as it has since appeared, they retired to some interior part of France, where they lived in a state of seclusion.

Isabella and her husband remained in the dominions of the Grand Seignior till she had produced a young Turk, which, out of gratitude to her preserver, she called by the name of Achmet; when the ambassador being ordered home, they departed from Constantinople, loaded with presents that spoke the munificence and magnificence of the sultan and sultana,

sultana, and safely arrived in England.

After spending some months among the relatives of Frederick, in great felicity, as Sir Allan expressed a wish to retire, and Mrs. Berkley to re-visit her native kingdom, they sailed for Ireland, where the fame of their adventures had spread before them.

How they were received it is needless to repeat, among a people whose characteristic is affection and attachment to the families of their Chiefs, and hospitality to strangers.

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The fertility of the country, the picturesque scenery around, and the open and benevolent manners of the people, made such a pleasing and grateful impression upon the minds of Mr. Berkley and Isabella, that they resolved to take possession of a magnificent seat presented by Sir Allan, and remain among them. They did so, and when the male part of my readers contemplate with rapture the lovely countenances of the present race of Milesian beauties, they will (if they were struck by the faint outline of Isabella in the former part of this work) reflect

flect with pleasure that many of
them are, perhaps, the descend-
ants of

THE FAIR HIBERNIAN.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.